

Inside this issue:

Message from the Mayor	1
Success in Our Economic Development Priorities	2
Community Profile	2
Millions for Local Housing Efforts	3
The Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB)	3
New Vision Photography Gala Reception and Photography Exhibit	4
The John A. Wilson Building Wins the TOBY Office Building of the Year 2004	4
District Activities	5
Community News	5
Upcoming Events	5

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Penn. Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-2980
Fax: (202) 727-6561
<http://dc.gov>

Message from the Mayor

It's time again for our National Night Out against crime. National Night Out is a chance for all of us to join together to stop crime before it happens. The message is simple: if government, community groups, non-profits and the private sector work together, we can have a huge impact on our city's quality of life.

On Tuesday evening, August 3, residents across the District of Columbia will join neighbors, police officers and other public officials during the 21st National Night Out. Police and residents in all seven police districts will hold block parties, neighborhood walks, open houses, softball games and other crime prevention events designed to show solidarity against crime and commitment to safer neighborhoods.

This year's National Night Out celebration comes at a time when crime in the District of Columbia, including our homicide rate, is down sharply.

However, we still have our work cut out for us, particularly in areas such as juvenile auto theft. We're working hard in that area, and hope the Council passes my Omnibus Juvenile Justice, Victims' Rights, and Parental Participation Act of 2004 this fall. At two community forums held on July 19 in Southeast and Northeast, I joined other city leaders to outline a comprehensive plan to resolve the issue of juvenile car theft. We detailed a five-point response that includes tougher laws, intense law enforcement, and increased human services to provide alternatives to young people.

We'll also need the continued support of the community. Some of the reduction in overall crime is partly due to the efforts of residents, police officers and government agencies working together to combat crime and the conditions that lead to crime. National Night Out is a time both to celebrate the successful police-community partnerships we have already forged in many neighborhoods and to develop new and strong partnerships in other areas of the city.

Our citywide celebration of National Night Out will begin at 5 pm, with a kickoff ceremony and community crime prevention festival at the Naylor Gardens Cooperative Community apartments in the 2700 block of 30th Street, SE. Community, police, government and clergy leaders will be on hand. The kickoff event will be followed by dozens of events spanning all seven police districts, including activities in several of the "hot spots" being targeted by police and other DC government agencies.

A [list of National Night Out activities](#) in the District can be found on the Police Department's website. You also call the MPDC's Community Outreach Section, (202) 727-0783, for more information. People who are unable to participate in organized National Night Out activities are encouraged to turn on exterior lights and spend some time outside on the evening of August 3 in a show of solidarity against crime and for neighborhood safety.

Sponsored by the [National Association of Town Watch](#), National Night Out brings together tens of millions of people each year. Last year, 34 million people in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, US territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide participated in the event, and DC earned a "Top 10" award among large cities for its celebration.

For more information, please visit: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno.shtm>



Success in Our Economic Development Priorities

Last week was a great week for our city's economic development efforts. We had success on many fronts.

First, we're making progress on the DC USA development in Columbia Heights. DC USA will be a 465,000 square-foot family-oriented retail center in the heart of Columbia Heights, along 14th Street, NW between Park Road and Irving Street. DC USA will feature the District's first Target Store; prominent national retailers like Bed, Bath & Beyond; a family sit-down restaurant; and multi-level underground parking.

This development is estimated to generate 1,000 permanent jobs and 500 construction jobs, paying more than \$60 million in wages to primarily entry- and mid-level employees. The District government proposes to dedicate up to \$2 million of tax increment financing, or "TIF" proceeds, for a small business assistance program in the adjacent area.

Second, there's the Skyland development in Southeast. Skyland will be a 240,000 square foot high-quality retail center in the Hillcrest Neighborhood of Southeast Washington—the first TIF project east of the Anacostia River. We project Skyland will create 300 additional full-time jobs and approximately 305 construction jobs, paying more than \$30 million in wages by the end of the first two operating years.

Third, we made progress on the development of a new wing of the Corcoran museum in Northwest. The District granted \$40 million in TIF assistance for the Frank Gehry Wing of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, located at 17th Street and New York Avenue, NW. The Corcoran is the oldest art museum in the District. It also houses the District's only professional college of art and design. The project would add 140,000 square feet to the Corcoran's existing structure.

Finally, the Council approved legislation that I proposed to establish the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation (AWC). This new public entity will be charged with leading the revitalization of the District's Anacostia Waterfront. The AWC will coordinate the implementation of a 25-year plan that calls for the redevelopment of land currently either underutilized or not utilized at all.

Community Profile Memar Ayalew

Ward 4 resident Memar Ayalew, 19, demonstrates her commitment to community service on a daily basis by taking care of her elderly neighbor. From helping her with laundry to cooking her meals, Memar is a true companion to neighbor Etta Weaver. Memar explains that her neighbor has become like family and that it is the least she can do to make her feel better.

"She is like an angel to me," Weaver said. "Memar accepts me as a semi-invalid and there is nothing she won't do to help me."

Memar means "to learn" in Amharic, Memar's native language, and she says that knowledge is not always something you learn in school but is something you gain from giving back to the community. Besides helping her neighbor, Memar has spent numerous hours volunteering at the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Ethiopian Community Center.

While a student at Cardozo High School, Memar was the founder and president of the Cardozo Cosmos Science Club, editor of the school year book, and accomplished member of the DC Urban Debate League. In fact, the school has named an award after her, the Cup, to be given to the most improved debater each year. Memar plans to study at the University of the District of Columbia in the fall and major in biology.

Memar is the March 2004 youth winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by Serve DC. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit <http://serve.dc.gov> for nomination information or call (202) 727-9461.



Millions for Local Housing Efforts

I'm proud to say that we're continuing to step up our affordable housing efforts. Our city's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) last week announced that it's making available \$35 million in local Housing Production Trust Fund monies, federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds, Community Development Block Grant funds, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for developers committed to creating affordable housing.

Last year, DHCD utilized the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to assist in the financing of affordable rental housing and home ownership opportunities for District residents. Developments include: the highly anticipated Danbury Street Southwest Townhouses/Chadwick Apartments, which will produce 119 new townhouses for home ownership in the Bellevue community; 12 units of special needs housing with Green Door, an organization that rehabilitates housing for physically and mentally disabled residents; and 227 rehabilitated multi-family units at Oxford Manor Apartments.

For Fiscal Year 2005, DHCD is soliciting proposals for new construction and rehabilitation of rental and for-sale housing, the preservation of rental housing with expiring federal subsidies, elderly housing, and special needs housing. The Department supports developments that provide housing for extremely low- (less than 30 percent of area median income), very low- (between 30 and 60 percent of area median income), and low-income (less than 80 percent of area median income) families.

DHCD will also provide limited financing for the development of community facilities that serve low- and moderate-income residents. DHCD anticipates that FY 2005 funding will produce approximately 1,000 units of housing and leverage over \$150 million in private and public resources.

Proposals must be submitted on or before 4 pm, Friday, September 3, 2004, to DHCD, Development Finance Division, 801 North Capitol Street, NE, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20002. Each submission must contain an original document, in a three ring binder (with each exhibit tabbed) and four (4) copies. DHCD is expected to announce the developers selected to go forward to the underwriting stage in October 2004.

Questions regarding the RFP should be directed to Mr. Lawrence Cager, Deputy Director, Development Finance Division, Mr. Ray Slade, Special Assistant, or Mr. Jim Thackaberry, Supervisory Project Manager at (202) 442-7280.

The Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB)

On March 1, I signed legislation enacted by the Council that merged the former Department of Insurance and Securities Regulation and the former Department of Banking and Financial Institutions into one new agency: The Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB).

Although the name is new, the primary mission remains what it was when each agency was separate: to protect the citizens of the District of Columbia who buy insurance or take out mortgages and who invest in securities or borrow funds to finance their businesses.

In 2000, Congress enacted the Gramm-Leach-Bliley law, which tears down the walls of separation between the business of insurance and the business of banking. Gramm-Leach-Bliley is changing the nature of financial services. District citizens now have the ability to purchase products that combine aspects of insurance, securities and banking. The District of Columbia needs to have an agency and a single regulator in DISB. Commissioner Lawrence Mirel is heading up the effort at the new DISB.

I'm proud to say we now have a single regulator that understands the intricacies of all financial products and services. It will ensure that the citizens of the District have greater protection against any 'bad actors' who seek to prey on unsuspecting consumers. Simply put, I have great expectations about this merger. It gives the District the ability to carry out this mission of protection effectively—to make sure that District residents have access to good, honest and capable financial services at reasonable, competitive rates.

DISB has consolidated its offices into the former headquarters of the DISB at 810 First Street, NE, 7th floor. Citizens wanting information or needing to file a complaint or report fraud can do so by visiting the office during its regular business hours, 8:15 am to 4:45 pm, calling (202) 727-8000, Monday through Friday or by visiting the website at: <http://disb.dc.gov>.



New Vision Photography Gala Reception and Photography Exhibit

Recently, students from the New Vision Photography Program came to photograph me in and around my suite and at different events throughout the city to collect photos for a tabletop photo essay book and exhibit entitled, *A Day in the Life of Mayor Williams*. Proceeds from the book, the photography exhibit, and a 2005 calendar will go to the students participating in the project.

On June 30, I attended the gala reception to celebrate the opening of the photography exhibit at the Charles E. Sumner School Museum and Archives. The exhibit, which is slated to run through July 30, displays over 100 photographs taken by the students with development disabilities. The photos were taken over the last six months at various community activities, museums, and two days of shadowing.

The New Vision Photography Program, Inc. is the vision of Al Price, its president and CEO. His program provides a unique blend of experience as a professional photographer and youth worker specializing in the developmentally disabled population. Mr. Price designed, developed and implemented a successful and innovative basic photography course.

The mission of New Vision Photography is to support and expand employment options and community inclusions to persons with developmental disabilities by introducing them to a creative world of conventional and digital photography through pre-vocational training.

On June 29, the students traveled with me throughout the day photographing me as I performed my mayoral activities. I particularly enjoyed the photographing of my magnificent Olympic cannon-ball dive at Kenilworth-Parkside Recreation Center to kick off Safe Passages Summer 2004. The photos from this event are displayed in the exhibit.

New Vision is helping ensure that all of our residents, regardless of disabilities, have an opportunity to succeed in a variety of fields.

The John A. Wilson Building Wins the TOBY Office Building of the Year 2004

Our house of local government, the John A. Wilson Building, recently won the 2004 Office Building of the Year Award. I want to extend congratulations to CB Richard Ellis, Inc. and thanks to the entire engineering and maintenance staff at the Wilson Building headed by Tony Long of INSIGNIA, and Chief Engineer Alyssa Turner, Office of Personnel Management, for their 2004 recent award.

The "TOBY" Award is the most prestigious and comprehensive program of its kind in the commercial real estate industry, recognizing quality in office buildings and rewarding excellence in office building management.

The Wilson Building, originally known as the District building, was constructed in 1902. Its architecture is English Renaissance design with French and Gothic influence. Before recent renovations, the fifth floor was the top floor, or the attic of the building. The building's woodwork is natural pine; the upper stories are made of white marble from South Dover, New York, with the remainder from Knoxville, Tennessee.

The District Building was vacated in 1992 because it was not safe for occupation and in need of extensive renovations. Prior to being vacated, the building housed the offices of the Mayor, DC Council, and the Executive Office of the Mayor. At that time, what is currently the Mayor's Ceremonial Room was the Mayor's office; the Mayor's Conference Room was the Press Office; the Chief of Staff's Office was the Secretary's Office; and, starting with Mayor Marion Barry's administration, what is now the Council Chair's Office was the City Administrator's Office.

DC Law 10-69, effective February 11, 1994, renamed the District Building the John A. Wilson Building. This new name honored former DC Council Chairman John A. Wilson, from Ward 2.

After extensive renovations, the Mayor, the Council, and the Executive Office of the Mayor reoccupied the John A. Wilson Building in September of 2001. We are back in the John A. Wilson Building, back in the seat of power, back to where home rule began.

We're committed to making sure that we do all that we can to preserve our city's architecture and are proud to have won this prestigious award.



District Activities



Mayor Williams helped to celebrate Bastille Day (French Independence Day) Friday, July 9, with a proclamation from the city.



Mayor Williams, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, Ward 5 ANC Commissioner Kathy Henderson and others toured the 18th Street, NE area July 19 to celebrate the reclamation and empowerment of a community once plagued by drugs and violence.



Mayor Williams and other city officials listen to resident's concerns during a press briefing at Davis Elementary School in Southeast on July 19.

Community News

- [New Public Corporation To Lead Revitalization of Anacostia Waterfront](#)
- [Mayor Outlines Reform Plan for Unauthorized Use of Vehicles by Juveniles](#)
- [DC Implements New Citizen Emergency Notification System](#)

[View All News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 8/3 | National Night Out
7 am – 10 pm
Various locations around town |
| 8/14 | Neighborhood Corps Forum
10 am – 3 pm
DC Convention Center
801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW
Meeting Room 144
Washington, DC |

